



# Bish E-Zine Christmas

WELCOME TO OUR E-ZINE



Dear Friends of The Bish,

It is hard to believe that this is the 17th week of term since we returned in August 2022. We are almost half way through the school year. So much has happened in the school and in the world over those weeks and we have so much to look forward to.

We are now in the 4th week of Advent. On the 4th week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good will toward Men." It would be wonderful if, in 2023, we might see peace break out in the Ukraine.

2022 has been an eventful year with almost every house hit hard by increased cost of living. As a result of this, we have decided not to do any school fundraising this Christmas. Instead, our TY SVP Group have led a Food Appeal. This has been really well supported by Bish families and all donations will go to families in the locality. Many thanks to all of those who donated so generously.

School life in St. Joseph's Patrician College continues to be busy and rewarding. In August, we welcomed the latest group of 1st years. They seem to have settled into life in the Bish very well, and we look forward to seeing their growth and development over the next 5 years. This group are the first group of students who will experience taking Home Economics and Technology as subjects for Junior Cycle. Our state-of-the-art rooms that arrived in the yard this time last year are finally up and running. It is amazing to see the excitement of our 1st years, 2nd year Life Skills and TY's during their practical cooking classes. It has been a wonderful addition to our curriculum.



John Madden - Principal.

As we welcomed our new first years we also said goodbye to our LC class of 2022. They collected their LC results in early September and we had an informal “goodbye” for them the following week. The class of 2022 achieved great results and we are so proud of them. Some have progressed straight to college, some are doing apprenticeships, some are taking a year out to decide what is next on their educational journey, all very valid choices.

So many things have happened over the last 4 months and these items are recorded in this ezine. Occasions of note include our first ever Open Night. The Irish word ‘Meitheal’ springs to mind. Meitheal is an old Irish term that describes how neighbours would come together to assist in the saving of crops or in other tasks. Our open night encapsulated this where staff and students worked together to showcase the school and all it has to offer to pupils and parents of 6th classes. The positive, respectful relationships between staff and pupils was commented on by numerous visitors to the school.

One highlight was our Christmas Mass on Dec 19th in the Cathedral. It was our first full school visit to Galway Cathedral since 2002. It was a privilege to be able to address all of our student body in one venue. It was a wonderful start to the final week of term. Thanks to all of the teachers involved in preparing this mass for us; Nuala O’ Halloran, Rob Grealish, Seamus Cahalan, Kathleen Devine, Ciara Greaney, Ruth Holden and Dymrna Page. Thanks also to Gráinne Cotter and Kathleen Devine for organising the wonderful choir and music. Thanks to the Cathedral staff and priests for welcoming us, to Fr Tony Finn from The Augustinian Community for celebrating the mass and to all the pupils who participated in the mass.

Our two All Ireland winning Soccer teams brought great joy to the school in September and October. We normally have to wait to the end of year for occasions like this, so it was superb to win two all Ireland’s within 3 weeks of each other. Congratulations to all pupils involved and coaches, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Behan, Mr. Grealish and Mr. McDermott as well as all the other teachers who accompanied the supporters.

We also became known as “The school that rowed the Atlantic”, as a result of past pupil Damian Browne arriving back into Galway after his solo row across the Atlantic. Many of our oarsmen and rugby players lined Galway Harbour on the morning of Damian’s return. It was also great to welcome Damian back to speak with the student body in November.

This term also marked the retirements of Ms. Caroline Joyce, Ms. Isbeál Nic Aoidh and Mr. Brendan Doheny from the teaching staff of the Bish. They have been members of staff in the Bish since the early 1990s and have given wonderful service across various subject faculties and extracurricular activities. We wish them well on their new adventures and we miss their presence in the school.

Sadly, since our last ezine, we lost another former Principal, Br. Angelus who passed away in July 2022. Br. Angelus was Principal of the Bish from 1974 to 1990 and was well respected by pupils of the Bish at that time. He had a great love for rowing and spent a considerable amount of time driving all over Ireland to regattas and rowing events. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Thank you again for taking the time to read our ezine and may the Christmas break be a time of rest, relaxation and blessing for you and your families.



# THROUGH THE YEAR

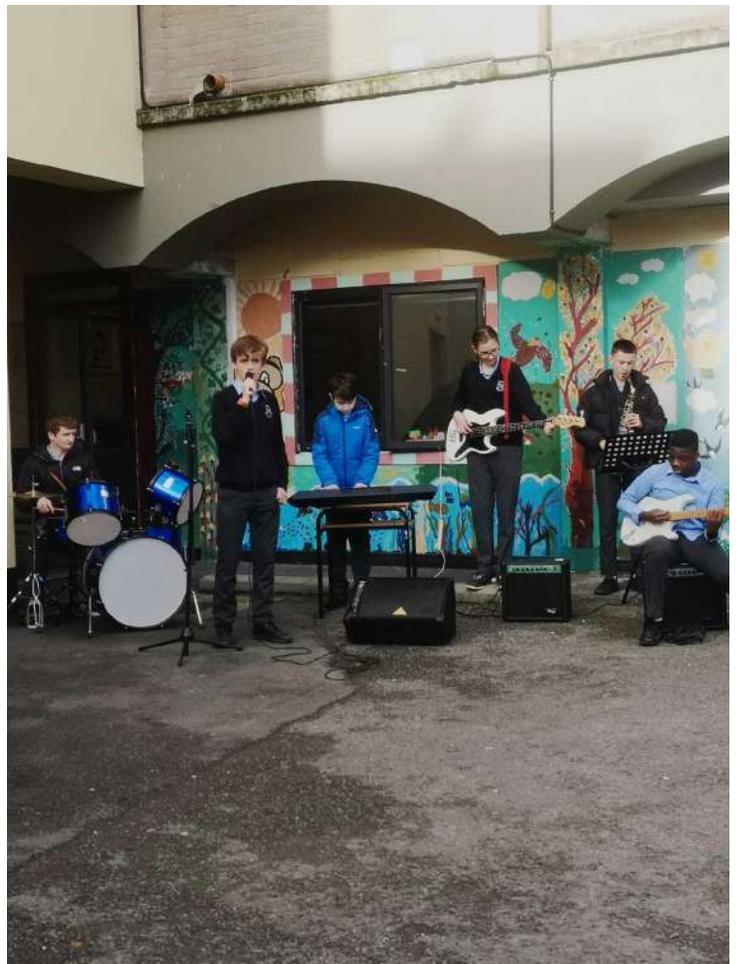
Some of the highlights through the year to date have been the Bish AM AM, the arrival of our new bus, establishment of our new 5th Year Prefects, Headstrong Team and Student Council, our Mass of Remembrance in November, retreats, Damian Browne's homecoming and subsequent talk in The Bish and so much more.











# CHRISTMAS MASS



Our beautiful Christmas service brought the entire school community together in the Cathedral on December 19th which was a lovely way to mark the end of the school term.

The School Ethos team worked hard to create a really meaningful and joyous celebration which was complimented exquisitely by our musicians and choir. A lot of effort and thought went into choosing the songs, readings and prayers.

Our thanks and best wishes to staff and students alike who participated in the event.

# LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES

Art Club, Games Room, Debating - there's loads going on in The Bish at lunch time.



# HOME ECONOMICS

A fantastic new addition to our school. Our students are learning really valuable skills.



# JUNIOR CYCLE RESULTS



# OPEN EVENING



We had our very first Open Evening for prospective students which was a great success. With so many changes to our school over the years and the introduction of so many new opportunities, we thought it was time to showcase ourselves a little.

Huge thanks to all our staff and students for their help on the day and in the lead up to the event.

# STAND UP AWARENESS WEEK 14TH TO 18TH NOVEMBER



We had our second ever Stand Up Awareness week to celebrate LGBTQI+ in November and it was a great success. Display boards with information were placed throughout the school as well as our first ever Pride Bake Off. Pictured here are our worthy winners with their delicious baked goods.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

We are delighted to introduce our newly elected student council. Students interested in the Council were asked to put themselves forward for nomination and their peers had the opportunity to vote for two reps per year group.



### Student Council 2022-2023



Harry Kay



Fionn Barrett



James Morahan



Osayimwen  
Imaydeyunuagbon



Seán Óg Heffernan



Bertalan Jager



Oisín Kelly



Diarmaid McGrath



John Denny



Samir Hassan



Abraham Sehe



Senan Connolly

# TRANSITION YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

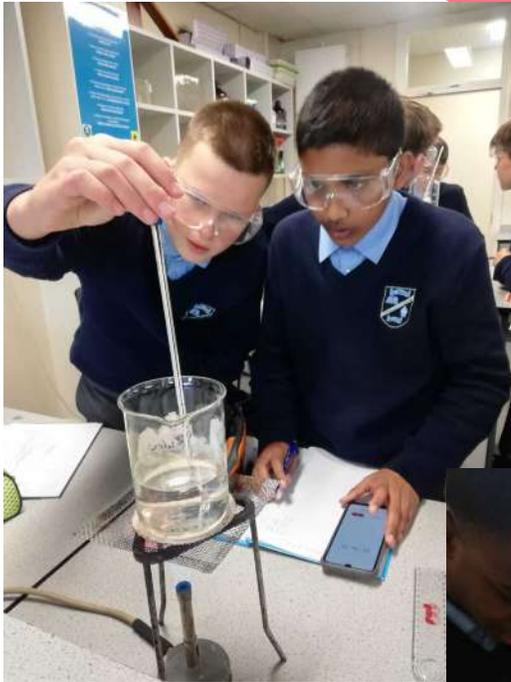




# TY CHRISTMAS FAIR AND SVP APPEAL



# SCIENCE WEEK



# SPORTS

There have been massive successes in a range of sports this year in The Bish. We are delighted that there is so much activity back in the school again after so many restrictions. We had our Bish Cup and Shield in Pearse Stadium where we welcomed 10 primary schools to compete. Our TY GAA Future Leaders really shone at this event thanks to their organisational skills. Huge congratulations to our U14 and U15 All Ireland winning Soccer teams. Well done to our U16 Basketballers who got Bronze in the All Ireland Semi Final and to the U16A and U19A teams who won Western Regional titles. Well done to Tommy Lillis and James Kelly who represented Connacht in the FAIS Interprovincial at the start of December. To Shaane Rather and Ruaidhrí Conroy who represented Ireland in the U14 Regional Waterpolo Championships. To Daniel Tynan who won 2 Bronze medals at the Judo All Ireland Championships. To our oarsmen who had huge success in Enniskillen at the Erne Head of the River. To David Heron who played with the Irish Amputee Football Senior Team in Scotland and to Basketballers Viktor Tashev, Eoin Cleary and Luke Herrick who were called up to the U17 and Irish U16 International Basketball squads in preparation for the European Championships in 2023. We had a visit from former Bish student Damian Browne. Past pupil Dylan Tierney Martin made his European debut for Connacht Rugby and students Sean Dunne, Charlie Cox, Sean O' Connor, James Kelly, Brian Mitchell and James Summerville brought the Tom Markham cup to the school in September.



U14 All Ireland Champions



U15 All Ireland Champions







# SOCIAL MEDIA

We are currently working on building our social media platforms to connect with current and past students more. Please follow our pages, like them and share them to keep up to date with latest news and events in The Bish. Thank you to all our contributors for this edition of the ezine.

We wish you all a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year.

Stay safe and see you all in 2023!

**Facebook** St. Joseph's Patrician College 'The Bish'

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